

Introduction to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

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Module Objectives

- Provide an overview of the Integrated Postsecondary Education System ([IPEDS](#)), including its:
 - Universe
 - Data collection cycle and data availability
- Highlight the broad topics for which data are available for analysis

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What is the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)?

- Interrelated surveys conducted annually by NCES
- Gathers information from every college, university, and technical/vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs (Title IV-eligible institutions)
- Required by the Higher Education Act of 1965
- Describes basic characteristics of institutions, enrollments, completions and completers, graduation rates and other outcome measures, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, student financial aid, admissions and academic libraries
- Many organizations and individuals rely on IPEDS data, including Congress, Federal and state agencies, schools, educators, media, and private industry



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IPEDS Universe

Institutions eligible for federal student aid:

- Includes institutions of all levels and sectors, degree-granting and non-degree-granting:
 - 4-year, 2-year, < 2-year
 - Public, not-for-profit, for-profit
- Approximately two thirds are degree-granting
- Mandatory for institutions that have a program participation agreement with the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA)

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IPEDS Universe (Continued)

Institutions not eligible for federal student aid:

- Must request to be part of IPEDS (not mandatory), and are reviewed before being added to IPEDS
- Must participate in the IPEDS fall data collection to appear in the [IPEDS College Navigator](#)
- IPEDS does not identify what percentage of the non-federal student aid universe is represented in the data; only information that is reported, is available

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What Data are Collected?

IPEDS is a series of 12 interrelated survey components covering 9 major areas:

- Institutional Characteristics
- Enrollment (Fall and 12-Month)
- Completions
- Graduation Rates and Outcome Measures
- Admissions
- Student Financial Aid
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Academic Libraries



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IPEDS Data Collection Cycle

- IPEDS has three data collections and three main data releases each year:
 - Fall: Institutional characteristics, completions, and 12-month enrollment
 - Winter: Student financial aid, graduation rates, graduation rates 200, admissions, and outcome measures
 - Spring: Human resources, fall enrollment, finance, and academic libraries
- Within a few months after the data collection closes, the data are released
- An overview of the [IPEDS calendar is available on the NCES web site](#)

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IPEDS Data Releases

IPEDS data are released via First Look Reports. To sign up for email [Newsflashes](#) that announce new IPEDS First Look Reports:

1. Click on the Newsflashes link above
2. Click on National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
3. Check Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

News Flash

An e-mail-based alert service designed to inform you about all new content posted to the IES website including news from its four Centers and programs within Centers such as the Regional Educational Laboratory Program.

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☐ Adult Literacy

☐ Common Core of Data (K-12)

☐ Crime and Safety in Schools

☐ Education Finance Statistics Center

☐ High School Longitudinal Studies

☐ Household and Early Childhood Surveys

☐ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

☐ International Comparisons

☐ Library Statistics Program

☐ National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

☐ National Forum on Education Statistics (FNE-12)

☐ National Postsecondary Education Cooperative

☐ Postsecondary Education

☐ Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

☐ School and Staffing Survey (Public & Private K-12)

☐ State Education Reform

☐ Publications

☐ Research Announcements

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Data Available in the IPEDS Website

- IPEDS Data
 - 1986 – 2013
- Higher Education General Information System (HEGIS) Data
 - 1980, 1984, 1985
 - HEGIS data not on the IPEDS website are stored at the International Archive of Education Data, University of Michigan

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Data Availability Caveats

Not all data are available for all years

- New surveys have been added over time
- Data fields may not be consistent:
 - New fields added
 - Some discontinued
 - Definitions may change
 - Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes, Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes, and Race/Ethnicity are reviewed on a semi-regular schedule

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Optional Year Data

- Some data required in alternate years, but some schools submit every year:
 - Fall enrollment: Enrollment by age (odd years); residence of first-year students (even years)
 - Human resources: Race/ethnicity (odd years)
- Prior to 2011 data collection, submission of new variables or surveys was optional for the first year

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Module Summary and Resources

Summary

- Described the IPEDS survey data, including its:
 - Universe
 - Data collection cycle and data availability
- Described the broad topics for which data are available for analysis

Resources

- [IPEDS Home Page](#)
- [College Navigator](#)
- [IPEDS Calendar](#)
- [Newsflashes](#) to receive notices about IPEDS First Look Reports
- [IPEDS Data Center](#)